

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying a thumbnail image of an original image of a data file stored in a storage unit on a display unit, the method comprising:
 - (a) storing in the storage unit a first compressed code relating to an image for displaying the thumbnail image of the data file, the first compressed code is generated by dividing the image into a plurality of tiles and performing discrete wavelet transform and hierarchical encoding on pixel values of the image tile by tile;
 - (b) setting a resolution of the thumbnail image in accordance with a format type of the data file;
 - (c) extracting a second compressed code according to the resolution from the first compressed code stored in the storage unit; and
 - (d) displaying the thumbnail image based on the second compressed code.
2. A server computer causing a thumbnail image of an original image of a data file stored in a storage unit of the server computer to be displayed on a display unit of a client computer in accordance with an instruction therefrom, the client computer being connected to the server computer via a network, the server computer comprising:
 - a thumbnail image storage unit to store in the storage unit a first compressed code relating to an image for displaying the thumbnail image of the data file, the first compressed code being generated by dividing the image into a plurality of tiles and performing discrete wavelet transform and hierarchical encoding on pixel values of the image tile by tile;
 - a thumbnail image setting acquisition unit to acquire from the client computer a resolution of the thumbnail image, the resolution being set in accordance with a format type of the data file;
 - a thumbnail image extraction unit to extract a second compressed code according to the resolution acquired by the thumbnail image setting acquisition unit

from the first compressed code stored in the storage unit; and
a thumbnail image transmission unit to transmit the second compressed code extracted by the thumbnail image extraction unit to the client computer.

3. The server computer as claimed in claim 2, wherein when a region of interest (ROI) is specified in the original image of the data file, the thumbnail image extraction unit extracts the second compressed code according to the resolution set in the thumbnail image setting acquisition unit from part of the first compressed code stored in the storage unit, the part of the first compressed code relating to a tile of the ROI.

4. The server computer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the thumbnail image extraction unit extracts the second compressed code from only a luminance component of the first compressed code stored in the storage unit depending on the format type of the data file.

5. A client computer displaying a thumbnail image of an original image of a data file stored in a storage unit of a server computer on a display unit, the server computer being connected to the client computer via a network, the client computer comprising:

a thumbnail image setting unit to set a resolution of the thumbnail image in accordance with a format type of the data file; and
a thumbnail image setting transmission unit to transmit the resolution set by the thumbnail image setting unit to the server computer.

6. The client computer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the server computer is a server computer as set forth in claim 2.

7. The client computer as claimed in claim 5, wherein in a case of

receiving from the server computer a first compressed code according to the resolution set by the thumbnail image setting unit extracted from part of a second compressed code stored in the storage unit, the part of the second compressed code relating to a tile of an ROI, the thumbnail image is displayed in an enlarged size so that thumbnail images of data files of the format type are displayed in a single size.

8. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a server computer to execute a method of displaying a thumbnail image of an original image of a data file stored in a storage unit of the server computer on a display unit of a client computer in accordance with an instruction therefrom, the client computer being connected to the server computer via a network, the method comprising:

(a) acquiring from the client computer a resolution of the thumbnail image, the resolution being set in accordance with a format type of the data file;

(b) extracting a first compressed code according to the resolution from a second compressed code stored in the storage unit, the second compressed code relating to an image for displaying the thumbnail image of the data file and being generated by dividing the image into a plurality of tiles and performing discrete wavelet transform and hierarchical encoding on pixel values of the image tile by tile; and

(c) transmitting the first compressed code to the client computer.

9. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 8, wherein when an ROI is specified in the original image of the data file, and further wherein the first compressed code is extracted according to the resolution acquired from part of the second compressed code stored in the storage unit that is related to a tile of the ROI.

10. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 8,

wherein extracting the first compressed code from only a luminance component of the second compressed code stored in the storage unit depending on the format type of the data file.

11. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a client computer to execute a method of displaying a thumbnail image of an original image of a data file stored in a storage unit of a server computer on a display unit, the server computer being connected to the client computer via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) setting a resolution of the thumbnail image in accordance with a format type of the data file; and
- (b) transmitting the resolution to the server computer.

12. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein in a case of receiving from the server computer a first compressed code according to the resolution extracted from part of a second compressed code stored in the storage unit, the part of the second compressed code relating to a tile of an ROI, the thumbnail image is displayed in an enlarged size so that thumbnail images of data files of the format type are displayed in a single size.